

February 1, 2015

Ms. Nancy Rumrill
U S Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Drinking Water Protection Section, Mail Code WTR-3-2
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Draft Class III Underground Injection Control Area Permit
Permit Number R9UIC-F'Y11-1
Florence Copper, Inc.

Dear Ms. Rumrill,

You should be aware that during the public hearing on January 22, 2015 in the Town of Florence, most of the comments presented to the EPA were not from residents of Florence but employees of Florence Copper. In addition to Florence Copper employees, the majority of other comments were from people with a direct interest in the mine or that have a stake in the mining industry. Their comments did not address the safety and protection of our water source but the economy of the mine operation and the limited jobs it may create. These comments have nothing to do with the permit process or the protection of our most vital resource which is water.

The EPA is responsible for protecting our water and in doing so should consider there is not adequate protection for the lower basin fill unit which currently supplies our drinking water. Florence Copper suggests incorrectly that the upper basin fill unit is where we obtain our water source. Florence Copper proposes to discharge contaminants into the lower basin fill unit. Florence Copper also states that the area is highly fractured. This means that there is even more potential to contaminate our water by not only horizontal but vertical movement of acidic chemicals and resulting solids created by these chemicals. The proposed test of the in-situ process does not adequately protect our water and the required monitoring falls short of any reasonable plan.

Sincerely,



Arne Hawkins

FOIA Exemption 6

